

Please notify us if you have an upcoming event you would like listed and we'll include it on a space available basis.

- Jan. 6-7** Inland Northwest Economic Adjustment Strategy Advisory Committee Meeting, Missoula, Montana. More info at www.inlandnwregion.org.
- Jan. 21-23** Economic Advisory Council and Idaho Travel Council meetings, Boise. More info at www.idoc.state.id.us.
- Feb. 10** IRP BOARD MEETING, BOISE, 7:30 am – 11:30 am.
- Feb. 10-11** Idaho Ag Summit re Urban/Rural Interface. More info available at 208/888-0988.
- March 25-26** 17th Annual NW Regional Rural Health Conference, Spokane. For more information contact Conference Chair Peter House at 206/685-3676 or ahec@wsu.edu.
- April 22-23** Economic Advisory Council Meeting. More info at www.idoc.state.id.us.
- May 5-7** Idaho Travel Council and Governor's Tourism Conference, Twin Falls. More info at www.idoc.state.id.us.
- May 20** IRP BOARD MEETING, Cascade, All day
- July 22-23** Economic Advisory Council. More info at www.idoc.state.id.us.
- August 4** IRP BOARD MEETING, Magic Valley, All day
- Oct. 21-22** Economic Advisory Council. More info at www.idoc.state.id.us.

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AWARD HONORS FORMER MAYOR

Roberta Joy Lee of Kooskia was honored for her role as a leader in community development in the Kooskia area during the November Idaho Rural Summit in Coeur d'Alene. The award, given for individual commitment to rural development, was created in honor of Rueben D. Miller who was the Mayor of Fairfield from 1982 through 1994.



Lieutenant Governor Jim Risch (left) and Senator Skip Brandt (right) took part in the presentation of the rural development award to Roberta Joy Lee of Kooskia.

As the Mayor of Fairfield, Rueben worked hard to have the voice of small communities heard in Boise and in Washington, D.C. Following Rueben's decision to resign as Fairfield's Mayor, he continued to work for the benefit of rural communities. From the small office of the Mayor of Fairfield to the halls of Washington, D.C., Rueben was constantly working to improve the quality of life for the people of rural communities. Rueben passed away in January 2003. He will be greatly missed.

Roberta works to improve the community in ways that help all the resident and has been involved in the successful grant applications to build a new water system, a chair lift for the Opera House, construction of a welcome center and new Emergency Services Center.

Roberta works well with government agencies and private interests to partner on behalf of the community. According to her nomination from the Kooskia City Clerk, "Roberta has a gift as a visionary... and has the tenacity and ambition to see them (ideas) through."

AG ENERGY CONFERENCE SCHEDULED

The Farm Foundation is cooperating with USDA's Office of Energy Policy and New Uses to organize a conference to examine farm energy use and production targeting private and public policies that influence energy consumption and production in agriculture. The June 2004 conference will be held in Arlington, Virginia. The information will be used to help USDA improve administration of energy-related programs and provide baseline material on energy use by agriculture and possible supplies. The conference materials will be utilized to create a "technology roadmap" for agricultural energy consumption and production, including barriers to technological advances, research needs, investment opportunities and economic (price) relationships. Conference organizers are seeking policy papers and other proposed materials that are due no later than Friday, January 16, 2004. Additional details about submission of conference materials or other questions may be directed to Dr. Steve A. Halbrook (630-571-9393 or steve@farmfoundation.org) or Dr. Joe Outlaw (979-845-3062 or joutlaw@tamu.edu). Conference materials will be posted on the Farm Foundation Web site (www.farmfoundation.org) as they become available.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION GRANTS AWARDED

Governor Kempthorne has announced funding of 41 projects totaling \$188,150 awarded to 18 communities across the state as part of his Generation of the Child initiative. The Community Collaboration projects address a variety of topics such as developing opportunities for parent education, improving literacy, reducing gang violence, increasing immunization rates, expanding after-school programs, accessing infant-toddler programs, and enhancing opportunities for teen mentoring. The contracts of up to \$5,000 each were awarded through a competitive process. The projects receiving awards also had to demonstrate how their project is a collaboration between organizations, businesses, government, and schools. Funds for the Community Collaboration Contracts are received by the state each year from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Temporary Assistance for Needy Family & Children program. IRP Executive Director Sara Braasch was a member of the Review Committee and was extremely impressed with the quality of projects and partnerships formed across the State.



Focus...featuring Idaho success stories and partner agency activities.

INTERESTED IN SELLING TO THE GOVERNMENT?

Government agencies spend billions of dollars on goods and services every year. Any company, regardless of size, is eligible to compete for these contracts. The majority of federal purchases under \$100,000 are set aside for small businesses, which opens new opportunities for many Idaho firms. The Idaho Department of Commerce can help companies access this immense market through the Idaho Business Network (IBN). Since 1985, this service has helped Idaho businesses secure over \$500,000,000 in awards and contracts.

Working with the IBN is timely, efficient and productive. Using specifically designed bid tracking software to access a variety of procurement systems, the IBN alerts businesses to potential new customers and provides information on new opportunities that match companies product and service profiles.

The IBN is a service available to all Idaho businesses, and is a great tool to expand a company's sales and marketing reach. Best of all, if a company can receive bid information by email, the IBN membership is free.

HOW DOES THE NETWORK WORK?

Upon enrollment, information provided on the company's products and services is entered in the Network's database.

Each day, the Network's database is scanned against the newly posted purchasing needs of federal agencies, Idaho Division of Purchasing, Idaho Department of Transportation, Idaho Division of Public Works, and other government procurement sources. Companies are then notified of all purchasing requests or bid opportunities matching their products or services.

In addition to the bid matching service, the IBN staff can assist companies with many procurement-related issues including government registrations and certifications, bid preparation and electronic commerce.

HOW DOES A COMPANY SIGN UP?

A company may register online at www.idahoworks.com/ibn, or you may request an enrollment form from the Idaho Department of Commerce. If a company decides to receive bid opportunities via email, the IBN service is free. If a company elects to receive notices through conventional mail, a \$25 fee is applied.

For more information on how the IBN can assist your company, please contact the Idaho Department of Commerce at (208) 334-2470, or email ibn@idoc.state.id.us.

News Briefs.....

IRP HOSTS USDA DEPUTY SECRETARY

The Idaho Rural Partnership (IRP) was pleased to host a roundtable discussion with USDA Deputy Secretary Jim Moseley earlier this fall in Boise. Participants in the roundtable discussion were: Dr. Bill Schlosser, fire planning/forest health; Dr. Clarence Siroky, homeland security on the farm & ranch; Jose Valdez, minority business development; and Dr. Mike Weiss, role of a land grant in rural issues. Over 50 people attended the session and were able to hear the panel discussion and interact with the Deputy in a question and answer session. Moseley made it clear that there is just one way for Idahoans to have a say on agriculture, national forests, rural development and other Western issues, "Talk to us." Moseley continued that the onus is on his department to hear what states and their residents are saying. "The way to respond is to listen," he said. "But it's

more than listening. Listening is important; it's the first step. But it really comes down to this: You listen to understand. You want to appreciate what's going on. If you listen and understand, you end up with change," Moseley said.

IDAHO PREFERRED™ LAUNCHED

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture has launched a new identity and promotion program for Idaho food and agriculture. Idaho Preferred is now accepting applications to participate in the program. Participation information and applications are posted at www.idahopreferred.com. For information, contact Peter Mundt, Idaho Preferred program manager, at 208-332-8684 or pmundt@idahoag.us.

211 IDAHO OFFERS NEW TOOL

Idaho rural communities will soon have a new tool to identify and evalu-

ate a wide range of data, all in one centralized location. By combining the efforts of AmeriCorps members and GIS Internet mapping technology, Idaho communities will have the capacity to visualize, share, and educate both public and private sector entities where trends and gaps in health and human services exist. Several agencies and organizations involved in the effort will utilize a statewide community asset-mapping process where community-recruited AmeriCorps members will serve as lead facilitators. The 18-member AmeriCorps program, administered by 211 Idaho, will place members in Boise, Bonners Ferry, Caldwell, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho Falls, Lewiston, Moscow, Mountain Home, Payette, Pocatello, Salmon, Shoshone, and Twin Falls. The effort is being coordinated by 211 Idaho and Rural Community Resource Mobilization. To learn more about 211 Idaho and AmeriCorps, please call (208) 336-5533 x256.

IRP BOARD MEMBERS

STEVE ALLRED — Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

KENT BAILEY — Idaho State Senate, Hayden

PAT BARCLAY — Idaho Council of Industry & Environment

K. LYNN BENNETT — U.S. Bureau of Land Management

NANCY BERGMANN — Bechtel BWXT - INEEL

SKIP BRANDT — Idaho State Senate, Kooskia

TRENT CLARK — Monsanto, Soda Springs

DAVE EKERN — Idaho Department of Transportation

MIKE FIELD — U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development

WAYNE HAMMON — U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency

KEN HARWARD — Association of Idaho Cities

JOE HERRING — Region IV Development Association

CONNIE HOGLAND — U.S. Housing & Urban Development

LAMOYNE HYDE — Idaho Department of Commerce

DOUGLAS JONES — Idaho House of Representatives, Filer

KAY KIDDER — Nez Perce Tribe, Lapwai

CLAY LARKIN — Mayor, Post Falls

ROGER MADSEN — Idaho Department of Labor

LORRAINE ROACH — The Hingston Roach Group, Grangeville

KATHY RUFFALO — Office Of The Governor

DEVAUGHN SHIPLEY — Idaho Association of Counties, Blackfoot

HARTY & MARJORIE SCHMAEHL — Hearthstone Bakery/Tea House, Kamiah

MARY LOU SHEPHERD — Idaho House of Representatives, Wallace

DICK SMITH — U.S. Forest Service

PATRICK TAKASUGI — Idaho Department of Agriculture

ASHLEY & KATRIN THOMPSON — The Ashley Inn, Cascade

RICK TROMBLEY — Economic Development Administration

JOSE VALDEZ — Casa Valdez, Caldwell

JIM WERNITZ — U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

DAVID ZWERNEMAN — Resource Conservation & Development Organizations

2003 IDAHO RURAL SUMMIT A SUCCESS

COEUR D'ALENE - Almost 200 people attended the 2003 Idaho Rural Summit on November 18 – 19 in northern Idaho. The Summit was hosted by the Idaho Rural Partnership and attendees represented a diverse spectrum of private and public interests.



Almost 200 people attended the 2003 Idaho Rural Summit.

"I would like to commend the participants for the discussions and work they engaged in during this Summit," Governor Dirk Kempthorne said. "The future vitality of all of Idaho requires this kind broad forward looking thought. Their

work and recommendations are greatly appreciated."

The 2003 Idaho Rural Summit agenda was organized around the significant issues and major recommendations contained in the September 2000 report from Governor Kempthorne's Rural Development Task Force. The five significant issues from the Governor's 2000 Task Force were Leadership/Governance, Telecommunications, Education and Workforce Training, Infrastructure Development and Economic Development.

Highlights of the Idaho Rural Summit priorities include providing economic development information to local leaders, increasing post-secondary options for rural Idahoans and expanding leadership training programs. The



Dave Ekern (left) presents Idaho's Transportation Long Range Plan while Trent Clark (right) takes notes.

Idaho Rural Partnership will utilize these recommendations in planning activities, programs and committee agendas for the coming year.

The top priorities from the 2003 Idaho Rural Summit are included as an insert in this newsletter.



Linda Jackson, Kathleen Lewis and Kathleen Simko (L-R) listen to the Leadership breakout session.